

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /086 W
-----170351Z 022267 /26

R 161725Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8311
USMISSION USBERLIN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USELM LIVE OAK
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
IV TRANS BRIG OBERURSEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 08426

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, ELTN, US, UK, UR, FR, WB, GW, GE
SUBJECT: REICHSBAHN TARIFF

REF: (A) USBER 1279 DTG 111605Z MAY 77

1. UK, US AND FRENCH REPS TO BONN GROUP HAVE DISCUSSED
NEXT STEPS IN HANDLING THE REICHSBAHN REQUEST FOR
TARIFF INCREASES FOR ALLIED MILITARY TRAINS AND HAVE
REACHED CONSENSUS ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE APRIL 5 SOVIET APPROACH, WHEN ANSWERED BY
ALLIES, WILL CONSTITUTE A SATISFACTORY FOUR-POWER
UMBRELLA FOR DIRECT TECHNICAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN
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REICHSBAHN AND BUNDESBahn.

B. WE ARE PREPARED TO ALLOW TECHNICAL NEGOTIATIONS
TO CONSIDER AN INCREASE IN THE ALLIED FREIGHT TARIFF
ONLY. DISCUSSIONS OF CHANGING THE PRESENT PROCEDURES
UNDER WHICH THE REICHSBAHN RECEIVES NO COMPENSATION FOR
PASSENGER TRAINS WOULD REQUIRE A CLEARER SOVIET INVOLVE-

MENT THAN CAN BE READ INTO THE APRIL 5 STATEMENT, AND SUCH A CHANGE WOULD THUS NOT BE NEGOTIATED.

C. IN ORDER TO BUILD A RECORD, THE ALLIES SHOULD RESPOND IN WRITING TO THE SOVIET APPROACH AND SHOULD STATE THAT THE BUNDESBahn IS AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS WITH THE REICHSBahn A POSSIBLE INCREASE IN THE TARIFF PAID FOR FREIGHT TRAINS. THE RESPONSE SHOULD BE BUSINESS-LIKE AND IN A FORM THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT FIND UNACCEPTABLE. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE ALLIED MISSIONS IN BERLIN ARE BEST QUALIFIED TO DRAFT A PROPOSED REPLY AND, UNLESS USBER OR THE DEPARTMENT OBJECTS, WE SUGGEST THAT USBER COORDINATE WITH THE OTHER BERLIN MISSIONS IN PREPARING THE REPLY.

D. THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE TARIFF INCREASE SHOULD ALSO BE NEGOTIATED; THE BUNDESBahn SHOULD NOT BEGIN WITH ACCEPTANCE OF THE FEBRUARY 1 DEADLINE.

2. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION WHETHER THE ALLIES SHOULD SEEK TO OBTAIN A WRITTEN ANSWER FROM THE SOVIETS TO OUR RESPONSE TO THEIR APRIL 5 APPROACH AS WELL AS WHETHER, AND IF SO HOW, THE ALLIES SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ENSURE THAT WHATEVER THE REICHSBahn AND BUNDESBahn AGREE TO IS FORMALLY RATIFIED BY THE FOUR POWERS. WE APPRECIATE THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO ACCOMPLISH THE FOREGOING MAY ENCOUNTER SOVIET OPPOSITION, BUT THERE WAS A BELIEF THAT, AT A MINIMUM, WE SHOULD AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AGAIN GO TO THE SOVIETS, IN WRITING, CONFIDENTIAL

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TO PROPOSE FOUR-POWER ACCEPTANCE OF THE RESULTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE ABOVE APPROACH WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE BONN GROUP THIS WEEK, AND WE WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE REMAINING QUESTIONS IN PARAGRAPH THREE OF REFTTEL, I.E., THE QUESTION OF A CONCRETE TARIFF PROPOSAL FROM OUR SIDE AND THE PRACTICAL FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE OCB. ASSUMING AGREEMENT THAT PAYMENT OF TARIFFS FOR PASSENGER TRAINS SHOULD NOT BE NEGOTIATED, THERE WILL PRESUMABLY BE NO REASON TO REGARD THE BUNDESBahn/REICHSBahn NEGOTIATIONS AS A PRECEDENT WHICH MIGHT BE APPLIED TO THE AUTOBAHN TRAVEL.

4. WE WOULD WELCOME COMMENTS FROM USBER OR THE DEPARTMENT ON THE APPROACH OUTLINED ABOVE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, TARIFFS, BERLIN RAILROAD ACCESS, TRANSPORTATION TAXES, BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN08426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770174-0297
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770555/aaaabuvo.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 812f4693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 USBERLIN 1279
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2510927
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REICHSBAHN TARIFF
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, ELTN, US, UK, UR, FR, WB, GE, GC
To: STATE USBERLIN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/812f4693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009